

Arlington Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
October 3, 2013

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Charles Tirone, Eileen Coleman, Curt Connors, Chris Naylor, and David White of the Commission. Catherine Garnett and Michelle Durocher of the Commission, were not present. Also present were Bruce Whelple, Ryan Bianchetto, Dorothee Van Thong, JM Van Thong, Laura Kuhn, Forrest Snyder, Carol Valente, Robert Valente, Paula Kindle, Brandon Kindle, Adelaide Grady, Fabrizio Santini.

7:45 pm – Commission Business:

White/Coleman motioned to approve the **9/19 minutes**; motion passed unanimously.

Connors/Tirone motioned to approve the **9/5 minutes**; motion passed unanimously.

White/Coleman motioned to approve the **2014 meeting schedule**; motion passed unanimously.

The Commission will hold a site walk to **Spy Pond Park** on Friday 10/18 at 9am, meeting at the parking lot at Pond Lane.

8pm – **Notice of Intent** – 343 Mystic St, landscape improvements

Ms. Kuhn presented plans to remove a failing concrete wall, regrade and remove invasive plants within the Buffer Zone of the Lower Mystic Lake.

The Commission had a site walk on 9/30.

The machinery to complete the work will probably have tracks. The landscape plan has general plant counts in zones, not specific counts in specific locations. The erosion control line is approx. 50 feet from the shoreline and is presented as haybale/siltfence. This should be strawbale and siltfence. The planted areas will be mulched with composted/aged wood chips.

Mr. Kindle asked if an EIR is required for this work. Mr. Stevens said that the thresholds for that kind of review are probably not at all exceeded.

Mr. Kindle asked if the machinery used will have spill controls and inspections performed that make sure it will not pollute the resource area. Mr. Stevens responded that the permit will include language that all other applicable laws must be complied with, such as vehicle inspection requirements.

Mr. Kindle asked what is an invasive plant. Ms. Kuhn responded that an invasive plant

is one that is typically imported to an area where it grows uncontrollably since it doesn't have any natural inhibitions to this growth. It crowds out other slower growing native plants.

Mr. Kindle asked if the property could be accessed via Mystic St, such as from the Piazza's house where construction is currently going on. They are greatly concerned about machinery coming in on Intervale and Lakeshore Drive which was just repaved recently.

Ms. Kuhn also described some work beyond the Buffer Zone which will include excavating around some mature oak trees to uncover their roots from fill and to make the area more level.

Mr. Kindle stated that he is opposed to the project.

Mr. Connors asked why.

Mr. Kindle answered that the method of construction will impact the natural area.

Mr. Tirone asked for more information such as a justification for the landscape plan and whether it complies with our local plant replacement regulations. They will hold another site walk on October 4 in the afternoon.

Mr. Volante also asked if an alternative route from Mystic St could be used. He is also concerned about wildlife.

Ms. Kuhn said she would prepare new information for the Commission to consider including a revised plan showing the proposed grade at the retaining wall and a second line of erosion controls.

White/Connors motioned to continue the hearing with the applicant's consent to Nov. 7 at 8:15pm; motion passed unanimously.

**8:15pm –Request for Certificate of Compliance – 30-50 Mill St, Alta Apartments, DEP File No. 91-213**

The Commission visited the site and had a few more questions. A gravel area next to the ball field was washed out and needed to be restabilized. Mr. Bianchetto and Ms. Grady said that they would have this attended to.

There was some exposed burlap/netting in the water quality swale. Mr. Bianchetto explained that this is left in place to decompose over time.

There is a dead tree near the outlet of the swale and two dead trees near the back corner of the property. The rear two trees are actually on the bikepath property or the adjacent Town owned property.

There is iron floc in the swale near the midpoint berm, but that is a natural process of

groundwater coming to the surface and encountering air.

Ms. Beckwith will add that maintenance reports shall be sent directly to the Conservation office to the Certificate of Compliance. Mr. Tirone asked that the sediment depth measurements be included in these reports.

White/Connors motioned to approve the permit release; motion passed unanimously.

Commission Business (cont.)

The Commission organized plans for the **Land Stewards meeting**.

The Commission confirmed that a new stockade fence constructed at **16 Spy Pond Parkway** was included in the permit 91-220.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corinna Beckwith  
Commission Administrator